

Moran Introduces Veterans Second Amendment Protection Act

Memorial Day Legislation Protects Veterans' Gun Rights

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran this week introduced the Veterans Second Amendment Protection Act, H.R. 2547, to prevent veterans from being unfairly denied their right to purchase firearms. The legislation, sponsored by Moran along with Congressman Ciro Rodriquez (TX), would reform the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) process that arbitrarily strips the Second Amendment rights of veterans and their families who receive assistance managing their financial affairs.

"On this Memorial Day, as we honor veterans who have sacrificed so much for our freedoms, we must ensure that veterans themselves are afforded the rights they fought for," Moran said. "It is wrong to take away veterans' right to bear arms simply because they cannot manage their finances. This legislation puts in place a better process so that an appropriate judicial authority makes that decision. As communities across Kansas celebrate Memorial Day, I'm glad to introduce legislation that preserves the Second Amendment rights that our veterans fought and died for."

Under current VA practice, veterans and other VA beneficiaries who have a fiduciary appointed to act on their behalf are deemed "mentally defective" and are reported to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), a system which prevents individuals from purchasing firearms. Moran's legislation would require a judicial authority to determine that a VA beneficiary poses a danger to themselves or others before the VA may

send their names to the FBI's NICS. Since 1998, over 117,000 VA beneficiaries have been reported to the FBI, including veterans, spouses, and their children.

On May 21, the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee unanimously approved the Senate version of the Veterans Second Amendment Protection Act, S. 669, introduced by Senator Richard Burr (NC). The legislation is supported by the following organizations: AMVETS, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Military Order of the Purple Heart and National Rifle Association.

Moran is a senior member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

###